

XXXII.—Obituary.

EMIL AUGUST GOELDI.

WE regret to announce the death of Prof. Goeldi, Foreign Member of the British Ornithologists' Union since 1898, on the 5th of July last at Berne, where he has lived since he retired from his post of Director of the Goeldi Museum at Para in Brazil.

Born at Toggenburg, a little town in the Canton St. Gallen, Switzerland, in 1859, Goeldi was the son of a teacher of Natural History, and from his earliest youth was brought in contact with the Swiss zoologists of his time. He was educated at the Gymnasium of Schaffhausen and subsequently at the Universities of Leipzig and Jena in Germany. He graduated at Jena in 1884. His first work was on *Schizoneura*, an aphid orchard-pest, but he longed for a wider sphere than Europe affords and found the call of the tropics too strong to be resisted. He went off to Brazil, where he obtained an appointment in the National Museum of Rio Janeiro. He came under the notice of the enlightened Emperor of Brazil, Dom Pedro II., who promoted him to several other posts. On the proclamation of the Republic in 1889, Goeldi retired into private life and settled in the Organ Mountains near Rio until 1894, when he was appointed by the Governor of the State of Para to found and organize a Museum at Para City or Belem. This was his opportunity and he made splendid use of it, so much so that on his retirement in 1907 the Museum was named the Museum Goeldi, after him. He also organized a Botanical and Zoological Garden in connection with the Museum, and issued a series of volumes, 'Boletim do Museu Paraense,' afterwards 'Memorias do Museu Goeldi,' in which many important contributions to Brazilian zoology and ethnology were made. In the fourth volume appeared his monograph on the Mosquitoes of Brazil, in which it was first suggested that *Stegomyia* might be the carrier of the yellow fever blood-parasite—a matter which has been amply proved since.

In 1907 Goeldi retired from his post and settled in Berne, where he was appointed Professor of Zoology at the University.

Goeldi's earliest contribution to 'The Ibis' was in 1894, when he sent an account of the nesting-habits of two Brazilian birds, *Phibalura flavirostris* and *Lochmias nematura*. He also published in 'The Ibis' the ornithological results of two important zoological explorations—one, of the coast region of South Guyana (*i. e.* that portion of Brazil lying between the mouth of the Amazons and French Guiana), in 1897; and the other, of the Rio Capim in the State of Para in 1903, besides many shorter contributions.

In Brazil itself Goeldi published many papers in his own Boletim, as well as a general work on Brazilian birds, 'As Aves do Brasil,' of which part i. appeared in 1894 and part ii. in 1900, while an album of 48 plates was subsequently issued to illustrate the work.

Goeldi was also much concerned with the protection of Brazilian birds from the ravages of the plume-hunter, and in 1890 he published a vigorous appeal to the Government of the State of Para to stop the extermination of the Egrets and Red Ibis of the lower Amazons. This was translated into English by Mr. W. H. Clifford in 1902 (see 'Ibis,' 1903, p. 615).

Goeldi's last work dealt with the Fauna of Switzerland from a somewhat original standpoint; the distribution in time and space was specially emphasized. It contains a chapter on the avifauna and was reviewed in 'The Ibis' (1915, p. 170). Only the first part, dealing with the Vertebrates, was published before his premature death.

GODFREY VASSAL WEBSTER.

By the death in action of Second Lieutenant Godfrey Vassal Webster on August 4 last, during the recent "push" of the Guards Brigade at the "Front," ornithology has lost a keen student. Born in 1897, and educated at Eton and Sandhurst, he obtained his Commission in the Grenadier Guards in October of last year. He was the only son of

Captain Sir Augustus Webster, Bart., also of the Grenadier Guards (Reserve), of Battle Abbey, Sussex, and was heir to the Baronetcy and Battle Abbey with its large estate. A born naturalist, at Eton he was placed in charge of the school Natural History Collections, and early in last year the writer of this notice spent a day with him at Eton and saw the really good work put in by him in arranging and classifying the specimens in the Museum, and also in restoring some of them, for he was a really expert hand in taxidermy.

A year or two ago, in a competition amongst the Public Schools on some subject connected with Natural History, a silver medal was awarded to Godfrey Webster for his excellent essay on the "Flight of Birds," gaining at the same time unstinted praise from the examiners. After the competition he sent me his MS. to read, and I was much struck by the unusual excellence of the paper.

As modest as he was clever, his name—in conjunction with other members of our Union who have also given their lives for King and Country—will be respected and revered for all time, and his death, coming so soon after the tragic death of Lady Webster in June last, will, I am sure, cause the sympathy of our Members to go out to his father—Sir Augustus Webster, and to his two sisters, in this their hour of deep sorrow. Godfrey Webster had only this year been elected a member of the British Ornithologists' Union.

T. P.

EDWARD PEARSON RAMSAY.

As was briefly announced in the July 'Ibis,' Dr. E. P. Ramsay, the well-known Australian ornithologist, died at his residence near Sydney on 16 December, 1916, aged 74 years.

The third son of his father, David Ramsay, M.D., an early Australian settler, Ramsay was born at Dobroyde House near Sydney in 1842. He was educated at St. Mark's School, Macquarie Fields, and afterwards at Darling Point under the Rev. G. S. Macarthur. Later on he entered the Sydney University. For some time Ramsay was engaged

in managing the Dobroyde nursery on his father's estate, and he was also interested in a sugar-growing scheme in Queensland.

In 1874 he was appointed Curator of the Australian Museum in Sydney in succession to Dr. Pittard. This post he held until 1895, when he was compelled to relinquish it through ill-health, to the great disappointment of his friends.

He paid a visit to England in 1883 as Commissioner for New South Wales and Tasmania at the great International Fisheries Exhibition held in London, and while here the University of Edinburgh conferred upon him the degree of LL.D.

From his earliest youth Ramsay was an enthusiastic lover of natural history, and between 1863 and 1868 he sent to 'The Ibis' a series of five papers, containing "Notes on the Birds breeding in the neighbourhood of Sydney, New South Wales." This was followed by many other letters and papers up to the year 1879.

About this time, with a view to the advancement of science in Australia, he, together with Sir William Macleay and several others, founded the Linnean Society of New South Wales, and from 1880 onwards he contributed a number of papers to its Proceedings on the birds of New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and other Pacific groups.

In 1888 Dr. Ramsay published his 'Tabular List of the Birds of Australia,' a most valuable work, and used for some years by all the writers and field-workers on Australian birds. Another important publication was his 'Catalogue of the Australian Birds in the Australian Museum,' of which four parts, dealing with the Accipitres, Striges, Psittaci, and Picariæ respectively, were published between the years 1876 and 1894. Of this work, a second edition was published later in conjunction with Mr. North. Dr. Ramsay named and described many new Australian birds such as *Atrichornis rufescens*, *Orthonyx spaldingi*, *Scenopæetes dentirostris*, and *Ailurædus maculosus*, and was during the period of his

Curatorship of the Australian Museum the leading ornithologist of Australia. He was never a member of the British Ornithologists' Union.

A good portrait and an obituary notice, from which most of the facts here made use of are taken, will be found in the April number of 'The Emu.'

ERIC BROOKE DUNLOP.

Another promising young ornithologist has fallen a victim to the war in the person of Eric Dunlop, who fell in action on 19 May, 1917, at the age of 30 years.

The elder son of Arthur Brooke Dunlop, of The Hove, Troutbeck, Windermere, young Dunlop was educated at Rugby. His early life was spent in the Lake District, where he had many opportunities of studying the bird-life, and prior to his leaving England for Canada in 1913 he had prepared an appendix to Macpherson's 'Fauna of Lakeland,' bringing the work up to date with additional matter and new records.

In Canada he continued his ornithological studies and worked at the nesting-habits and incubation periods of the birds of northern Manitoba, contributing articles on these subjects to the 'Auk' and 'British Birds.' He had also amassed a fine collection of birds' skins showing variation and plumage-changes, as well as a valuable series of skins of the fur-bearing mammals of Canada.

In 1915 he enlisted in the 78th Canadian Grenadiers. He came to England with that Battalion, but transferred in 1917 to the Border Regiment, and was in France barely a month before his death. He was not a member of our Union.

We have also with deep regret to announce the death of Mr. A. J. NORTH, Colonial Member of the Union, for many years attached to the Australian Museum at Sydney. We hope to give some account of him in the next number of 'The Ibis.'